

via



pacis

Newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community

Volume 17, Number 3

Autumn 1993



What's Happening

by Frank Cordaro

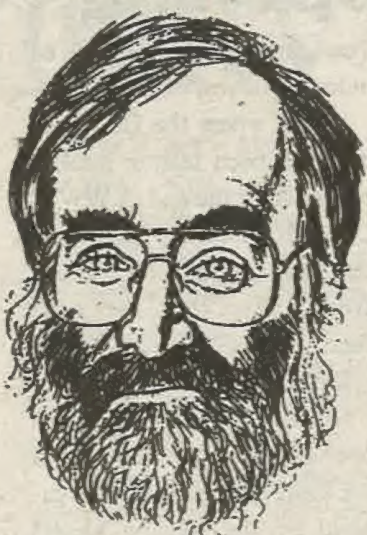
This Issue

Greetings from rain-drenched Iowa. The "Summer of 93" will long be remembered as the summer of the great floods. In this issue Jessica Barnhill offers some reflections following this city-wide crisis.

Along with the regular Community and Needs articles by Carla Dawson and Norman Kern's "Norman's Whereabouts," we have an article by Richardson giving us an "inside look" into Brethren Volunteer Service Program.

Speaking of Brethren Volunteers, Janice Baker has written about local power plant issues. Janice also bids us farewell. She is completing her time with us and we thank her for her presence this last year. It was an easy year at the DMCW. We especially appreciate her help in editing articles in the *vp*. We wish her the best of luck as she moves on.

Mike McHugh of the Catholic Peace Ministry gives us an look at different perspectives



Sketch by Jim Mitchell

on U.S. foreign policy and how it might affect the current crisis in Bosnia.

We also have an update from Michael Porzgen in Germany. Michael was with the DMCW last year as a Brethren Volunteer. He is lining up a ten-day speaking tour for me in Germany in October.

In our Resistance Notes section we have prison letters from Mark Kenney and Kathy Boylan and an update on the upcoming sentencing of Bill Farmer.

Iowa CTA Chapter

In its August meeting, the newly-formed Iowa Call To

Action (CTA) Chapter decided to postpone hosting a Fall conference in Iowa and instead to recruit people to attend the annual National Conference, "We Are The Church. What If We Meant What We Said?," in Chicago October 29-31.

CTA is a national reform movement within the Catholic Church. CTA seeks the following: a wider decision making role for ordinary people in the Church; women in ordained ministries; broader dialogue on human sexuality; freedom of conscience; and a greater respect and fostering of adult-to-adult relationships between all people in the Church.

Among the speakers expected in Chicago are Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Rosemary Ruether, Fr. Charles Curran, Liz McAlister, Fr. Richard McBrien and Miguel d'Escoto.

Anyone interested in attending this important conference can call the CTA offices in Chicago at (312) 604-0400. Anyone interested in car-pooling from Iowa should call Srs. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn at (515) 277-6617.

Report On Visit To LACW

Our trip out West could not have gone any better. Norman and I spent 10 days with the Los Angeles Catholic Worker Community, LACW, as part of their Summer Internship Program. We participated fully in the community's daily life. I gave several talks and celebrated the Eucharist with the community.

Having been at it for over 23 years, the LACW is one of the premier Catholic Worker communities in the country. The community lives at Ammon Hennacy House of Hospitality, a large three-story old home. There is plenty of room for both the long-term community members (between 5 to 7 people) and an equal number of guests.

They also have a small house on the back of their lot where in the basement the *Catholic Agitator* offices are located. The *Agitator* is the community's long-standing newspaper, an excellent publication published eight times a year. It's available for a \$1 a year.

Norman and I got the royal

treatment and were housed in the two-bed room apartment over the community's garage complete with kitchen, bath and living room.

Hippie Soup Kitchen A Garden Paradise

The LACW is best known for the soup kitchen and medical clinic they run in the skid-row district.

Their soup kitchen is unique. Called the "Hippie" Soup Kitchen by the men and women on the streets, it was destroyed four years ago by an earthquake. The community raised over \$350,000 to rebuild.

The end result was a much improved building facility with a set of large murals for the outside walls. They also added a plush garden in which to serve their meals. Three times a week the community serves a meal to between 500 to 1000 people.

L.A. has less than five days of rain a year, so the soup kitchen's meals are served outdoors in an enclosed area. People sit on fixed wooden tables surrounded by a thriving

(Continued on page 2)

Building Renovations Continue

Urgent Appeal

by Carla Dawson

I'm writing this article to beg for money. Now that I've got that out in the open, I want tell you where the money goes that people give to us. In the first place, nobody is paid a salary at the CW. We are all here on a volunteer basis with just room and board provided.

I'm sure some people know we have three houses to take care of. They are the Dingman, Lazarus and Ligutti Houses of Hospitality. The houses are all owned by the DMCW Land Trust. We pay all the utilities, property taxes and dumpster (garbage bin) charges. Our property tax is due this month. We also put out the community newsletter (*via pacis*) four times a year. Our mailing list is over 3,000. It cost us about \$900 each time we publish and mail our paper. It may seem like a lot of money for a newspaper. Yet, the *vp* pays for itself, plus it is our overall fund raiser. We also pay other everyday

expenses to keep the houses and community car going. Plus we are trying to get our houses back into physical shape after much neglect.

Throughout the 17 years of our existence, the DMCW Community has been blessed with many people who have been generous with their personal time, financial and material gifts, and spiritual support. We hope and pray that this much needed support will continue in the future.

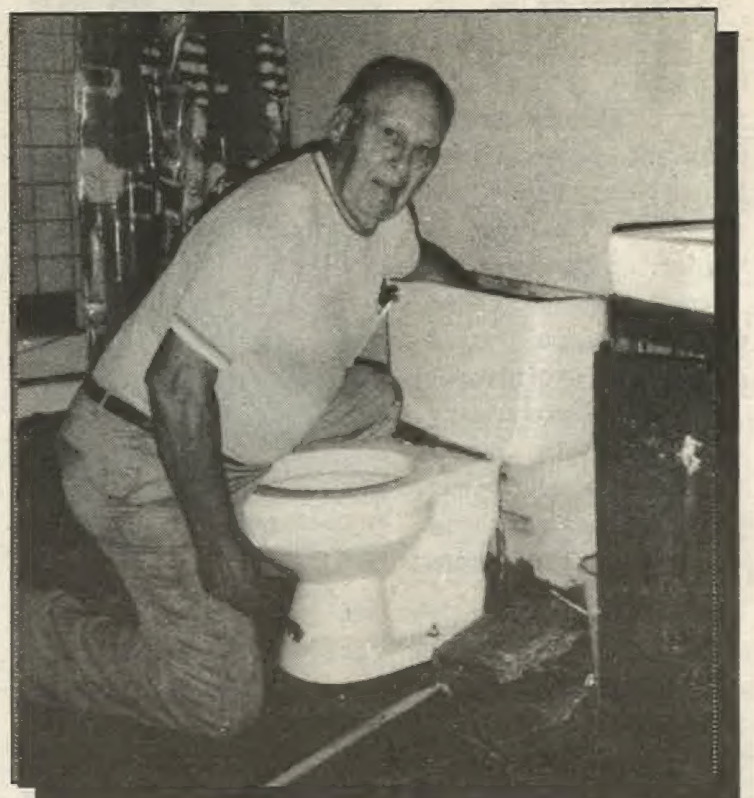
Dingman Memorial Update

The Bishop Dingman Memorial Catholic Worker Fund was established in February, 1993 to help raise funds to renovate the three DMCW houses. Bishop Dingman was an enthusiastic supporter of the DMCW community. When we started the fund, we asked Sr. Mary Dingman, Bp. Dingman's sister, if this would be alright. She expressed her support citing that when the Bishop was alive, he used to tell people to "use him" for the causes and concerns he held so dear. She

thought it most appropriate that the DMCW be able to "use" her brother's good name to raise badly needed funds to help with our work.

In March we started with \$1,180.00 in the Dingman Fund. In April we received \$515.00, and in May and July we received another \$250.00 for the fund. Thus far, we have received a total of \$1,945.00 for the fund.

Fixing the badly leaking Lazarus House roof was our first project with the Dingman Fund monies. At first we thought we could do this effort ourselves and bought \$700.00 worth of supplies. By August we discovered we were way over our heads with the Lazarus roof repairs. With all the rains this summer, the basic structural foundation of Lazarus House was in danger. We needed to do something fast to save the house. We had to hire a real roofer to finish the job. He agreed to do the job for \$2,400.00. We had to pay him \$1,500.00 upfront with the remaining \$900.00 to be given him one month after completion of the job.



One of our dedicated volunteers, retired Presbyterian minister, Andy Bosman, repairs the toilet at Lazarus House. photo by Frank Cordaro

If your math is good you can see that the Dingman Fund is broke. We had to use \$255.00 from the CW checking account to help pay the roofer the initial \$1500.00. The roof is done, Lazarus House is saved! But, we still need to come up with \$900.00 to pay the roofer.

To some people it may seem foolish to spend money we don't have. Perhaps, but it is a foolishness rooted in our giving over all our faith and prayers and problems to the Lord. In

the five years that I have been with the DMCW the Good Lord has never let us down. And I know that the Lord and our good friends and supporters will continue to look after us.

So please keep us in your prayers and help us get the needed monies to pay the roofer and get our houses back into shape! Thank you all.

March For Housing! October 2, 1993

State Capitol, Des Moines

March: Begins at 1:00 p.m. - Gather at Polk County Office Building located at 2nd & Court.

Rally: At the State Capitol, following the March

❖ Capitol rally features Carol Fennelly of the Federal City Shelter in Washington, D.C. and other speakers, music by Dan Hunter

For more information, contact the Des Moines Coalition for the Homeless - (515) 244-9748

"Trial of the Catonsville 9"

With Fr. Daniel Berrigan

A Fundraiser for Catholic

Peace Ministry

Sunday,
Nov. 28, 1993,
Dowling High School
West Des Moines

This year marks the 25th anniversary of an action in Catonsville, MD during which Fr. Dan, his brother Phil, and seven others burned draft files in resistance to the war in Vietnam. Fr. Dan wrote this compelling drama based on trial transcripts. He will perform the role of himself.

In 1978, Fr. Dan and many local peace activists put on the same play at Dowling H.S. Please plan to attend this long awaited encore performance.

contact: CPM at (515) 255-8114 or the DMCW at 243-0765



Fr. Dan Berrigan, S.J. celebrating mass at the Nevada Test Site.

photo by Norman Searah

What's Happening Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Southern California garden, complete with a fish laden water fountain, trees, flowers and caged singing birds.

It's a virtual paradise for the men and women who come to eat. The garden environment helps to set a calming, peaceful spirit throughout the meals.

It was invigorating to be immersed in a thriving Catholic Worker community that is clearly focused and well-grounded in the CW philosophy and way of life. These intense and highly motivated people have a full schedule of work, study, prayer and play.

I very much appreciated the quality time I spent with Jeff Dietrich. He and his wife, Catherine Morris, have been with the community for almost the entire 22 years of its existence.

There was also the added treat of being reunited with Carmen Trotta, a former Des Moines Catholic Worker who is in his six year at the New York Catholic Worker. Carmen was in L.A. to spend a month with the Summer Program. When Carmen comes to visit us in Des Moines, we need to get him to do his Elvis impersonation.

Witness at the Nuclear Test Site

The weekend of August 6 - 9 the bulk of the LACW community drove the five hours to Las Vegas. We were on hand for the 9th Annual Aug. 6-9 Desert Witness at the U.S. Nuclear

Test Site, located about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

This is where the U.S. military has been testing nuclear bombs since the end of WWII. Up until the early 1960s, these test were conducted above ground. Since then, they have been testing nuclear bombs below the ground.

Nuclear protesters from all over the country came for a weekend-long program organized by the Nevada Desert Experience, a 10-year-old peace group in Las Vegas who organizes internationally against nuclear bomb testing.

On Sunday morning, August 8, 70 people made the hour-long trip to the entrance of the Nuclear Test Site. I got to fulfill a long-time dream as I celebrated a Mass with Fr. Dan Berrigan, S.J.

After the Mass, we gathered on the main road leading into the test site. While blocking one lane of the road, 56 people crossed the property line. All were arrested by the local county sheriff's deputies and placed in temporary holding pens permanently placed just off the side of the road, placed for just such occasions.

Franz Jagersatter Remembered

The LACW and friends crossed over the property line with a banner which read, "In Memoriam Franz Jagersatter Executed Aug. 9th, 1943, We Will Not Kill, We Will Not Prepare To Kill".

Jagersatter was a devoted Catholic who refused to fight in WWII because he believed the Nazis to be evil. For this he was beheaded.

Over the last 10 years, tens of thousands of people have "crossed the line" at the test site. The arrest is symbolic since the county stopped prosecuting simple "line crossers" in 1986. (Not so at Offutt...)

We were processed and given a simple citation. The whole line crossing, arrest and release lasted just over an hour.

Most of us took our citations home with us as a reminders of the witness. They fit well along side the Official Shoshone Indian Travel Permits we all received. See Janice and Andrea's article, "Let It Be."

A Busy Fall

Besides travelling to Germany, I'll be driving to Baltimore with Michael Sprong and Norman Searah for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Viva CW House. It will be a five-day whirlwind road trip with good times to be had.

Finally, this fall besides a busy schedule at St. Patrick's and some talks lined up, I may well be facing the greatest challenge of my priestly life. I've been assigned to teach religion to the three first grade classes in the St. Albert's School system here in Council Bluffs. I know I'm way over my head with this assignment. Your prayers and suggestions are most welcome.

Friday Mass and Saturday Community Meeting Schedule:

(*All Saturday Community Meetings are open and are held at Dingman House. Join us for donuts and coffee.)

Fri., Oct. 1	with Fr. Kevin Cameron Special Spanish Language Mass
Fri., Oct. 8	with Fr. Tank De Carlo
*Sat., Oct. 9	Community Meeting - 8:00 a.m.
Fri., Oct. 15	with Fr. John Seda
Fri., Oct. 22	with Fr. Jim Wilwerding
Fri., Oct. 29	with Fr. Dave Polich
Fri., Nov. 5	with Fr. John Ludwig
Fri., Nov. 12	with Fr. Frank Cordaro
*Sat., Nov. 13	Community Meeting - 8:00 a.m.
Fri., Nov. 19	with Fr. Dave Fleming
Fri., Nov. 26	with Fr. Tom Coenen
Fri., Dec. 3	with Fr. Jim Wilwerding
Fri., Dec. 10	with Fr. Frank Cordaro
*Sat., Dec. 11	Community Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

via pacis

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Catholic Worker Community

Bishop Dingman House 1310 - 7th St.
(515) 243-0765

Msgr. Ligutti House 1301 - 8th St.

Lazarus House 1317 - 8th St.
(515) 246-1499

Community Members

Janice Baker, Jessica Barnhill, Ed Bloomer, Carla Dawson and children: Julius, Joshua, and Jordan
Andrea Loeffelholz, Liz Richardson, Norman Searah, Lori Smith, Jeff Tedder and children: Jeffry, Norma, and Sheila

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Community News

by Carla Dawson

Hi everyone! I am writing this article while sitting on my porch. It is a nice evening considering how humid it was today.

The community has been busy during the last few months. We weathered the flood like real pros. Jessica, Jeff, Janice, and Andrea sandbagged a couple of times. We brought guests and community members to Altoona for showers. The houses stayed clean during the flood due to our effort of collecting rain water.

I have to thank all of the people who brought us water. They were key to our survival. We had so much water that we had plenty to share with our neighbors!

Andrea is going to work full time at the Worker House (she used to work at Clarion Alliance). When Andrea is not busy at the Worker, she volunteers at Victim Services. It will be great having her here!

Recently, Andrea and Janice participated in the Nevada Desert Experience. The Department of Energy would not let Andrea on the tour of the Nevada Test Site because she is a foreigner. That seems to me really ridiculous.

Janice, who has been here for nearly a year, will be leaving us the first week of September.

She has grown a lot during this year. Next, Janice will be going to Paris to work and live as an au pair. I hope that she has a great future and comes back to visit. I love you, Janice, and will miss you very much. Keep that mean face in case you ever need it.

Jessica went to the Conservative Yearly Meeting of Friends. She has been telling us how much fun she had and about all that she had learned. At the moment, Jessica is visiting her friend Andrew and will be home soon.

Norman went with Fr. Frank to Los Angeles for 3 weeks. He saw Carmen while he was there. Norman and Fr. Frank ran into Janice and Andrea in Las Vegas during the Nevada Desert Experience — what a chance of fate. Norman is once again working at the Iowa State Fair so he is very busy. Glad that you are back, Norman.

Liz is visiting her dad. Prior to her trip, she worked diligently at Clarion Alliance setting up Ed Fallon's Death Penalty Speaking Tour. Due to the flood, Liz was then forced to work even harder changing the tour. We expect Liz back at the end of August.

Lori has been busy cleaning up the basement. We received a ton of canned goods from the Red Cross. The basement has not been that organized in a long time. Lori has been getting Jeffry and Sis (Norma)

ready for school. Now, Piggers (Sheila) will be the only one at home.

Julius finally came home. He was with his father and grandmother in Davenport for 6 weeks. I can sure tell that he is back via more laundry and more kisses. Joshua has been going to school for half a day for the last two weeks. He is definitely happy being with his old friends.

We have a new community member named Ed Bloomer. Ed used to be a member of the Creative Community for Non-Violence in DC. You may recognize him, however, from being a long ago member of Kindred House. To some, he is a new face. But to rest of us who know him, he is a God-send. We hope that he will find a good home with us.

The community has hired a roofing company to finish the roof job. The workers started on Monday the 9th and worked until Friday the 13th so that the contractor could take time off for his honeymoon. Now they are back to work. Ed and I have pitched in by picking up bricks and shingles. It is hard work, but we are encouraged by the results.

As we have mentioned in previous editions of *via pacis*, the community has mass every Friday at 7:30pm by different priests. We hope you will come.



An Inside Look at BVS

by Liz Richardson

For a number of years, the staff at the Des Moines Catholic Worker House has included Brethren Volunteers from all over the U.S. and Europe.

Currently, four staff members are Brethren Volunteers. Most people give us strange looks when we say we are BVSers (our slang for Brethren Volunteers). Therefore, this article will set the record straight and tell everyone everything that they ever wanted to know about the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS).

Since its founding in 1708, the Church of the Brethren has been known for its pacifism and concern for the poor and oppressed. BVS was developed in 1948 out of the Church of the Brethren's desire to make God's love visible through acts of service. BVS grew to become a worldwide organization in which volunteers take part in projects that are located all over the globe.

BVSers come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Volunteers range from recent high school graduates to senior citizens and also represent numerous religious/spiritual traditions.

In fact, many BVSers are not Brethren (just like many Catholic Workers are not Catholic). We Des Moines BVSers often puzzle people when they discover that none of us are either Brethren or Catholic.

What we have in common, is a commitment to peace and justice and a willingness to take a year or more of our lives to serve. Each of us joined BVS for different reasons, yet we each follow the same four basic BVS tenets: advocating justice, working for peace, serving basic human needs, and maintaining the integrity of creation.

Volunteers begin their term of service with a three-week orientation period. Approximately 20 new volunteers gather five or six times a year in locations such as Texas, Flori

da, Virginia, and Illinois.

Each orientation attempts to build community and friendship among volunteers while also educating them and pooling their knowledge and experience on issues ranging from simple living to the environment to racism, inclusive language, and non-violence. The volunteers cook together, play together and worship together, building close ties that hopefully will last throughout the BVS term and beyond.

It is during orientation that we decide on a project. BVSers must be flexible as to project choice. We truly have no idea where we will be spending the next year of our life before the orientation period. This "blind faith" is often difficult for family and friends to understand.

Des Moines' BVSers have chosen to work at Clarion Alliance, Iowa Peace Network (IPN), and the Worker. Janice and I work for Clarion, Jessica for IPN, and Andrea now works mostly for the Worker. All of us are expected to put time and effort into the Worker, which provides our room and board.

In essence, we BVSers have two projects — our assigned project and the Worker. This can at times be strenuous and draining, since it is easy to feel that we are at work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

However, we are dedicated to serving others and to being a part of the peace movement. As we learned at orientation, volunteers are often "ruined for life" by their experiences, meaning that their year of service convinces them to live "downwardly mobile" lives committed to social justice. I know that all of us have been touched deeply by our experiences in Des Moines.

Brethren Volunteer Service is open to anyone who desires to explore the sorrows and joys of serving others. The experience will change you and color your perceptions (hopefully for the better) for the rest of your life.

To learn more about BVS, write BVS Recruitment, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Janice Says Good Bye . . .



Janice Baker

Traditionally, a BVSer writes a good bye article for the *Via Pacis* at the end of her term. So here it goes...

My year with BVS is one that will not soon be forgotten. If anything can be said of the flood, it is that it made sure of

that. I have never lived through a national disaster, and I hope that I will not have to live through another one. Even if there never was a flood, however, I would still remember my year at Clarion Alliance and the Catholic Worker House. The year was very special.

It is difficult choosing specific things to write about — everything this year was memorable. The experiences I had here are ones that I will not have the opportunity to repeat again.

The best part of the BVS experience was the wonderful people I would not otherwise have met. Although I have fond memories of everyone,

there will always be a special place in my heart for the BVSers who shared this year with me.

For those of you wondering what I will be doing next, I will be living overseas for a while — most likely in France. I will be working as an au pair, for a family in Paris. While there, I will be taking French classes at the Sorbonne. Quite a change from the Catholic Worker, but I will adjust.

I would like to thank all of you who made my life special this year. There are too many to mention. Saying good bye is always difficult, so what if I say, AU REVOIR?

Janice Baker



Let It Be



by Andrea Loeffelholz
and Janice Baker

From August 5-8, Andrea and Janice, along with Jim Johnson, a friend of the community and of Clarion Alliance, participated in the annual "August Desert Witness" which commemorates Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event is one of several that the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) has organized since its conception in 1984.

The goal of NDE is a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, including an end to all nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada Test Site, as a first step toward disarmament.

NDE, committed to nonviolence, is calling religious communities to join in the quest for greater understanding of and commitment to the disciplines of nonviolence as rooted in the gospel.

On Friday, August 6, Jim and Janice went on a tour of the Test Site. Unfortunately, Andrea could not attend because of government bureaucracy — **No Foreigners**

Allowed!!! Not a very friendly or trusting attitude; but then again, these are the same people who have had missiles pointed at Andrea's home of East Germany for years.

Janice had her own way of getting back at them for not letting Andrea in — having an upset stomach, she threw up both on the property of the DOE and of the Test Site Control Room.

Aside from these setbacks, the tour was quite intriguing. We drove through an area designated for testing nuclear explosions and the effects they have on different materials. This enables the government to know what materials to use in future homes and technologies. Desecrated "homes" were scattered about and a bridge was broken in half from an explosion.

To those of you who find this information worrisome, relax. An underground car garage kept cars safe and a bank vault was hardly blemished so that our finances would be intact — just in case you might find either of these items necessary after a nuclear war.

Perhaps the most harrowing image was of an immense crater

in the earth which somehow spoke of death. It is a picture I will not soon forget.

On Saturday we had a surprise — we ran into Frank and Norman who had just come in from the Los Angeles.

Later in the afternoon, the entire group decided by consensus after much discussion to have a Catholic liturgy at the Test Site before conducting our protest that was scheduled for the following day. The decision making was a fine example of nonviolence due to the NDE staff's efforts to include everyone and not to offend anyone's beliefs.

The next day, Corbin Harney, the spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone nation, welcomed us at the Test Site with a Native American prayer and song.

The Western Shoshone have much interest in supporting protestors of the Test Site. The U.S. Government stole the test site land in violation of the Ruby Valley Treaty of 1863.

NDE supports the Western Shoshone land rights. So, each one of us who participated in the action were given official travel permits issued by the tribe.



At the Nevada Nuclear Test Site from left to right: Norman Searah, Andrea Loeffelholz, Carmen Trotta, Jim Johnson, Frank Cordaro, and Janice Baker.

Both the Western Shoshone people and the protestors realize that the only way to turn the land back to its natural state — land that the Western Shoshone consider sacred — is to support one another in our efforts to end nuclear testing.

Corbin led us to the boundary line of the Test Site where each of us stated our own personal reasons for being at there to the Test Site security personnel. At that time, people chose whether or not to cross the line. There was mutual respect

between the different groups that were present, including the police, the military, line-crossers and their supporters.

The purpose of the protest was not to blame anyone, but to provide ourselves the opportunity to face the deadly danger of nuclear arms and to learn where we stood on the issue and take a stand in the way that each of us felt was personally appropriate.

Our personal conclusion after some reflection: One Earth, One Air, One Water—Let It Be

Norman's Whereabouts

by Norman Searah

It is four in the morning, most of my work for the night is done. And I finally found time to write my article, which is very overdue.

In the last *vp* I wrote about how Fr. Frank is one of my biggest supporters and that I wish other CWer's had such a good support person.

Well, I just remembered that I have another two supporters who have been around since I was born, and I want the world to know that I love them very much. I'm talking about my dear Mom and Father.

They raised six boys and six girls. It wasn't easy for them to raise all 12 of us, especially with all the things we put them through. Looking back, I realize that I was perhaps the most troublesome for them to raise.

I would often run away from home for all sorts of reasons. It always hurt them when I did

this because they worried about me. I remember when I was returning home after running away, I'd stopped at St. Joseph Church to say a prayer and get some sleep.

My mother is a very generous person. She used to have the town drunk, Vince up to our house to eat dinner. Vince lived by himself in a rundown house half-way down our street. As a child I used to spend time picking blackberries and raspberries near Vince's house. I would notice Vince reading books on his front porch. We thought he was a lazy person because he only worked part-time at a near by factory. But that did not matter to my mom. She would feed him just the same.

I remember my father used to give people rides to the mental hospital in Worcester. Sometimes he would take me along. He would tell me that we all have our problems. And no matter how little or big they may be, we have no right to

judge another person, no matter how different they are.

After my father died, Mom told me that Dad had a habit of giving his work tools away whenever someone asked to borrow them. Sometimes he did this when he needed the tools himself. My parents were the first people who taught me to be generous and give to others in need without judgment. Thanks Mom and Dad.

In August Fr. Frank and I had the pleasure of spending time with the Los Angeles CW Community as special guests during their Summer Internship Program. Fr. Frank flew out to L.A., but I took the bus (I'm afraid of flying). I left Des Moines just when the water was being turned back on after the floods.

On my way out I stopped off in Denver to sleep on the streets for a night. It was a good night and no one bothered me. The next night I stayed in a hotel in Las Vegas

because it was so hot. I got to the L.A. Catholic Worker the next day so tired I went right to bed.

I met up with Fr. Frank and Carmen Trotta, a former DMCWer, the next day. We went to the LACW's soup kitchen. (See Fr. Frank's "What's Happening article").

Next to the soup kitchen is the LACW's free medical clinic so people who live on the streets can see a doctor or a dentist. I promised to send them some medical supplies from our donation in D.M. when I got back home. It was an amazing place.

Later that week Fr. Frank, Carmen and I spent one whole day on the beach. We all got a little too much sun. I got really sunburnt on my head. It was all worth it just to see Fr. Frank trying to swim in the ocean and Carmen trying to fit in with the California beach people.

Fr. Frank, Janice and Andrea have written about the

demonstration at the nuclear test site where billions of taxpayer's dollars have been wasted on testing nuclear weapons. Some people in the government want to keep testing these terrible weapons even though the Cold War is over.

Right before we crossed the property line, we had a Mass and prayer service. I decided that besides taking the spirit of Jim Harrington and Bishop Dingman across the line with me that I would bring a few others, like Jesus, St. Francis, Martin Luther King, the spirit of all the great Indian chiefs along with all the U.S. soldiers who are dying from cancer today because they were exposed to radiation from the nuclear bomb testing that took place in NV. during the 1950s and 60s. When I crossed the line all I got was a ticket.

When we got back to Las Vegas some of us decided to try our luck at gambling. I gave myself \$10 to gamble with.

Continued on page 5

Clean Coal Technology: An Act Of Stewardship?

by Janice Baker

"Clean Coal Technology is the project I have been working on at Clarion Alliance. Unfortunately, the proposed plant in Pleasant Hill will most likely become a reality.

One of the ways that Clarion Alliance has tried to stop the plant is by printing articles in different publications in an attempt to educate the public. This would explain if you have seen this article elsewhere.

For more information on stopping the plant, contact Nancy Lange at the Izaak Walton League (612) 922-1608.

Midwest Power is a utility company that is sure to reverberate in people's minds for years to come. In the midst of the flooding, Midwest Power has done much to help the citizens of Des Moines. For this effort, Midwest Power

should be applauded.

However, I can not help but wonder how Des Moines and its surrounding suburbs found themselves in this disaster. Drinkable water is a basic need, and unfortunately most Americans are dependent on others for it.

In fact, the irony of it all is that while we are surrounded by water — in our streets, homes, businesses — we have no safe water with which to flush our toilets, to drink, or even to touch.

We are a people living in the most highly industrialized era of history, yet our water is far from clean, pure and healthy. Not only is clean water a necessity, but it is a right.

Clean air is another seemingly inalienable right. Realistically, this is not the case. Four out of ten Americans breathe air considered unhealthy. Most of the dirty air stems from the use of fossil fuels such as oil and coal, which are neither renewable nor clean.

Currently 78% of the world's energy is produced by fossil fuels. We have given up our rights (and the rights of future generations) to big business whose first priority is certainly not the protection of our precious resources.

Midwest Power hopes to erect a Clean Coal Technology (CCT) plant in Pleasant Hill. The CCT plant will be the first one of its kind.

Although the plant will release fewer contaminants into the atmosphere than current coal plants, the plant's yearly output could add up to 30 pounds of arsenic, 30 pounds of lead, and 30 pounds of uranium.

According to Bernie Gerstein, a professor at Iowa State University who has been studying coal and its affects for the last 20 years, "The uranium isotopes are doubly dangerous, because in addition to being heavy metals which are chemically poisonous, the radioactivity becomes gathered into the

food chain and is a known cause of cancer in mammals. This is a critical issue for public health in general, and is not specific to those living in the neighborhoods of these plants."

The proposed CCT plant will create 27,000 tons of ash per year. Where will this refuse be disposed? At present, Midwest Power owns 50 acres of landfill space at the plant site for solid waste disposal and may need "additional space" in the future.

The plant is located near the Des Moines River, and Gary Friggens of Morgantown, West Virginia states that "CCT has not been thoroughly researched and the Des Moines plant would be used to find out the impact." Are we willing to be "guinea pigs" for Midwest Power, only to discover that our health and the environment have been adversely affected?

We should always remember that all of life is interconnected.

Everything which affects the earth affects humans as well. Humanity has been given stewardship of the earth by our Creator, and it is essential that we do not destroy this gift by misusing our resources. Individually, we are all responsible for our earth, and we certainly are not called to give up our responsibility to big business or government.

If we rely blindly on a power company to provide us the luxuries of energy, ignorant as to how they produce power and dispose of waste, then we are not acting as good stewards of our earth. Our ignorance will prove detrimental both to us and the earth.

Clarion Alliance works to bring out the truth of our environmental situations. If you have any questions regarding Midwest Power and their proposed plant, or would like information on Clarion, please call me at Clarion Alliance, 282-5851. Together we can make a difference.

The Flood: A Catholic Worker's Perspective



by Jessica Barnhill

Let me start by saying that the Worker owes a big thanks to those people who provided water for us when Des Moines City Water Works was contaminated and shut down. Initially, I could not imagine where we would find enough water for so many people. Within days, every container in the house had been filled along with five new 30 gallon trash cans. Thank you very much. As I try to write this article about The (500?) year Flood of 1993, I can feel the doubts I have been repressing rise to the surface. I wonder how often we will see floods such as this one in the future? When will we learn to get out of nature's way and to follow her lead? When will we learn how are we going to turn this path of destruction around and begin to restore the earth

rather than terrorize her?

The contamination of Des Moines Water Works is but one example of how dependent we have become on technology to supply out basic needs. Once clean water sources are now polluted from industrial, agricultural and human waste. The Population Reference Bureau estimates that 15 million people in the United States drink from potentially unsafe sources and some 1.2 billion people in the world lack water that is safe to drink.*

It scares me to think of our future as resources dwindle. We confront resource crises as technological challenges and Ms Nature's warning to slow down, consume less, and reconnect to the source of our birth, the sustenance of our lives — dust, water, air, and fire.

The flooding this Spring and Summer had re-reminded me of our interdependence, our transience, and connection to

the growth and life that is disguised around us. It disturbs me to have grown numb to the decay around the Worker. In similar fashion, I am numbed to the decay of our nation and of the planet.

Isaiah 41:17 says, "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them. I the God of Israel will not forsake them." I hope that this is true, that the promise of the rainbow still holds, and that there will always be a reservoir of living water.

The following thoughts are excerpted from "Drink From The Well of Living Water," a Lenten reflection produced by Alternatives**:

"Those of us who live in abundance often take water for granted; we turn on the faucet and out it pours. How easily we forget that water is precious gift from God to all people. How easily we forget the needy whom Jesus, the giver of 'living water,' came to serve."

"The average North American consumes 1,800 gallons of water a day through personal use and indirect agricultural

and industrial use. The ways we use water in developed countries — mining, industry, agriculture, etc. — often causes our water to become polluted, decreasing the amount of clean, pure water available to us and to others. We even send our industries and wastes to nearby countries, contaminating their water. We continue to pollute water to support our consumptive lifestyles.

"On the other hand, most people in developing countries use less than 12 gallons a day. Much of the water they use can cause illness and even death. Due to poor sanitation, lack of development and the pollution cause by transnational corporations, water in developing countries is often not suitable for drinking, cooking or bathing..."

"Our water is both precious and finite. While water covers 3/4 of the earth's surface, 97.4% is salt water, 1.8% is frozen; only 0.8% is fresh water. Pray thanking God for water, a resource vital for all life."

"Fresh water is a quiet and continuous miracle: water is carried by the heat of the sun from the ocean and plant life

up to the sky; precipitation sends the water back to the ground."

—According to the World Health Organization, 80% of all sickness and disease in the world is attributable to inadequate water or sanitation. There are support groups that work to provide clean water throughout the world.

—There is no such thing as water that has never been used before. The water you drink today may contain a water molecule that a dinosaur once drank. Pray for wisdom and courage to practice good stewardship of the water both you and others will use tomorrow.

*Population Reference Bureau, "1987 World Population Data Sheet" (Washington DC, 1987) p.3.

**Alternatives, P.O. Box 429, 5263 Bouldercrest Road, Ellenwood, Georgia 30049.



Anna Hogan

Norman's Whereabouts Cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

and lost it all. I learned a lesson that is connected with the test site. When we gamble or test nuclear bombs we think we can be winners. It might work for a short time, but in the end we all become losers with nothing to show for it.

We returned to L.A. the next day. On my last night in L.A. I took a long walk in the city. I saw a lot including the largest county jail I had ever seen, and I'm told they are building one even bigger. As I walked I noticed all the paintings on the walls, each one a different expression of mind, heart and faith. I realized that we are all painters in life sharing a unique painting for each unique life. I walked most of the night and finally sat down somewhere in China Town. I thanked God

for all He/She has done for me.

On my way home I stopped in Denver to see if I could catch a glimpse of the Pope. Instead, I saw the thousands of people who came to see and hear the Pope. I went to the Cathedral where the Pope was to have a Mass. I got into the Church to pray and look at the stain glass windows.

In order to stay in the Church for the Pope's mass lots of security measures had to be followed. There seemed to be more security for the Pope than there is for the President. I decided not to stick around and got back on the bus.

I would like to thank the LACW and the Las Vegas CW for having Fr. Frank and me as guests. And I would like to say thank you for letting me spend this time with you.



Carmen Trotta and Norman Searah

photo by Frank Cordaro

Coming Home to Germany

by Michael Porzgen

(Michael was a BVS volunteer and lived at the DMCW last year.)

Since February I have been back in the country where people speak my language. Still, it feels strange to be home. It took me a while to digest my year of living in the United States.

After a few weeks of doing little other than visiting old friends and places, I dug myself, almost literally, into a small beautiful village where friends are trying to convert it into an international center for recreation and non-violence; or however one would translate their peculiar name "Internationales Tagungs und Begegnungshaus."

The physical work, good food, and peaceful environment, combined with a little help from my friends, calmed me enough that I've started reading newspapers and even joined in a civil disobedience action for the first time.

When the German Parliament, the Bundestag, met for the second time to pass a law which would remove the right of people to seek asylum in Germany, thousands of people

went to Bonn, blocked the streets to the Parliament, and tried to enter the "banned mile" to discuss alternative viewpoints with the representatives. It was a powerful demonstration (10,000-15,000 people), but it was not without violence. Although it did not stop lawmakers from changing our constitution, it may have been the beginning of a "pro-refugee" movement.

The right for anybody, fleeing from political repression, to obtain asylum in Germany was a vital part of our constitution. It was unique in the world.

Slamming the door shut is not effective to stop the violence as was shown by the burning of a house and the killing of a Turkish family in Solingen only a few days after the law was changed. It will not stop refugees from crossing our borders.

I don't feel any better when I realize that racism is not just a German experience but is spreading all over Europe now. Many small positive incidents occur but they don't make the evening news since they aren't viewed as being as important as the bigger events.

For instance, there are more and more people wearing buttons proclaiming that they will

intervene whenever they witness an act of racism. One of these buttons say "I will act" and "Courage." There are people offering their homes and their money to give shelter to refugees from (former) Yugoslavia who, otherwise, would have to remain in refugee camps in Bosnia.

One group of Gypsies, occupied a church on the grounds of Dachau, a former Nazi concentration camp, because they feared being sent back to Yugoslavia.

The news is enough to become angry or depressed and seems as though the small signs of hope are too hard to find. The "United Germany" is far from being united, the military is sending troops to Somalia (remember Orwell's 1984 "war is peace"?), the German police cover up the killing of a terrorist, Skinheads killing a homeless man in Munich, and the list goes on.

However, last week I helped two Algerians extend their visas so they could remain in Germany and, maybe, study at a German university. There are a million things to be hopeful so there is no time to be depressed. Peace, Michael

P.S. New zip code is 90478

War in Bosnia: Perplexing questions in the post Cold War era

by Michael McHugh

Should the U.S. intervene in Bosnia to defend the Moslems? This question has been much discussed in recent months. It goes far beyond the Bosnian issue and into the broader question about what type of foreign policy the U.S. should pursue in the post-Cold War world in places like Somalia, Sudan, Haiti, etc?

As someone who has spent too many years studying the U.S. government and its foreign policy, I will offer a general review of how our foreign policies are determined.

There are several schools of thought among those who study foreign affairs. This includes a contingent who still believe the U.S. is motivated primarily by idealistic concerns, that it is crusading around the world against tyranny, injustice and aggression.

I do not support this school of thought, and I tell you all with absolute certainty that our government does not oper-

ate that way. U.S. foreign policy is based on "protecting our vital interests" - or, at least, those things the policy-makers believe to be vital. Our nation is run by people who look at the bottom line and say, "What is in it for us?" Pick up one of the volumes from the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series if you want proof.

There is, of course, a school of thought that says this is exactly how it should be. These are the "realists" and "pragmatists" (like, say, Henry Kissinger). They say that any great power cannot afford to be motivated by sentiment and humanitarian mush, that the world is a harsh place, and a nation must sometimes do harsh things to protect its interests. Sometimes one must support dictators and tyrants, overthrow unfriendly governments, and so on.

According to this view, one does not expend a lot of lives in a place like Bosnia unless very important interests are at stake.

Some have made the case

that "we" do have vital interests in Bosnia, though they are not very convincing. A couple of State Dept. officials have resigned in disgust over Bosnia, stating that the U.S. has written off the Moslems and is sitting on its hands while paying lip service to humanitarian concerns.

This is essentially correct, of course, but these officials have gone on to claim that if "we" don't intervene, the Balkans will explode, Russia, Turkey, Iran, etc. will become involved, Moslem Fundamentalists will rage out of control, etc.

These State Dept. officials are motivated by their moral outrage, but conceal it in "vital interests are at stake" rhetoric in order to get a hearing in our nation's narrow spectrum of allowable debate.

Finally, let's discuss the school of thought I most adhere to: the progressive/leftist point of view. This group believes U.S. foreign policy is motivated by economic interests, the need to protect and expand the capitalist system. We find that the U.S. is an

empire, dominated by an elite, with a history of aggression and expansion.

If this school of thought is valid, then the U.S. will never intervene unilaterally in Bosnia unless Exxon finds oil there. Oddly, the progressive/leftist view and that of the realists have much in common; they agree that U.S. foreign policy-makers care only about "our national interests." Except leftists maintain that those interests are always economic and that the policy-makers frequently rotate jobs between government agencies and the big corporations.

If the U.S. media and multinational corporations suddenly embarked on a crusade to save Bosnia (which I doubt they will), we'd soon be up to our elbows in flags and yellow ribbons, and 80 percent of those surveyed would favor massive bombing to "save" Bosnia. (Incidentally, the McHugh 80% Rule is that 80% of the American public will go along with a war just about anywhere as long as it doesn't drag on too long or cost too

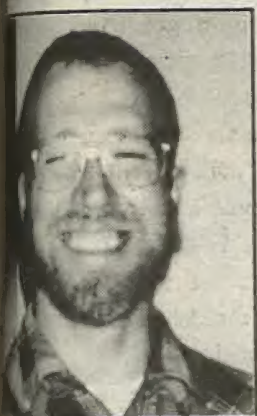
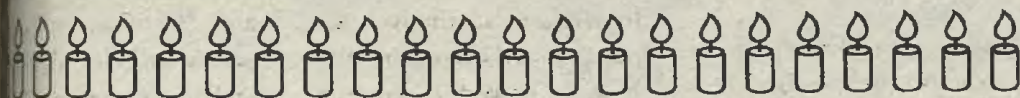
much or interfere with Major League Football.)

To conclude this essay, I would like to ask: What is the "faith-based, non-violent, pacifist" groups, which include the Catholic Peace Movement and the Catholic Worker Movement, doing about all this? What about the tiny fraction, the minority, who know what is going on and genuinely care about morality and humanitarian concerns?

I'm reminded of the story I heard about a group of actors, putting on the musical "Hair" in Sarajevo last year. When it came for them to do the nude scene, well, their right to showing. They were sure.

Clearly, Bosnia is a major issue for the religious and peace activists. So is Haiti, Sudan and many other places around the globe. Can tell you is that we must keep our eyes open, remember our history, our history shows we do more harm than good by asking for help from Wall and the U.S. Marines.

resistance notes



Kenney

Letter from Prison

June 11, 1993

via pacis,

Overall, I've had a very positive experience. There have been moments when situations tense and violence erupts, I've seen worse on the outside than most of us have witnessed. The gentlemen with whom I've been in contact have, for the most part, been decent companions and have helped me acclimate to the surroundings. As a non-smoking, non-street-talking, older, quiet white man I stand out and am definitely in the minority here.

So, I have been shown a great deal of respect and concern capable of people who have been

treated badly themselves because they personally experienced being in the minority. God definitely works through people who have been treated as outcasts. It really gave me hope as I answered not-so-kind letters from some friends and family. The most wonderful development in this whole event was the unswaying support of my wife and better half, Marie. Her 45 days were much tougher than mine. We've grown closer with each other and in our relationship with God as a married couple. My love and appreciation for her as my wife and special daughter of God grew more with each day I was in jail.

I come out with a joy in Christ that I haven't known for a long time. No matter how strange or unusual our situations appear to the "world", I can say with absolute confidence and Faith that Jesus Christ is with each and every one of us.

The simple fact that we are making any attempt at all to serve and circle the Kingdom of God on earth brings our Creator great joy. The simple fact that we continue to gather,

worship, serve and share as the body of Christ to the world calls upon and acts upon forces that are far beyond what even we, as Christians, can conceive.

To me, the question is not why are we not so effective in the world? The question is do we wish to follow the Spirit of Christ or the spirit of the world? Do we wish to sacrifice to the world in the hopes of a certain amount of satisfaction and success in the world's eyes? Or, do we submit to the Spirit that Christ sent to be with us with no guarantees in this world except that Jesus Christ will be with us, both in this world and the hereafter?

With great love and appreciation for your support and prayers, I thank you for allowing me to spew my simple silliness to you.

In Christ's Peace,
Mark F. Kenney

(Mark has served his jail term and is back home. He is a long-time Omaha peace activist. He served 45 days for crossing the line at Offutt AFB on December 28, 1992.)



Angela Cordaro and Helen Tichy enjoy a meal at the Lakes and Prairies Life Community gathering. Photo by Frank Cordaro

Activists Gather in Des Moines

On August 20-22 nearly 75 people from six states met at Chet Guinn's Fire Station for the fifth gathering of the Lakes and Prairies Life Community (LAPLC). LAPLC is a group of long-time nuclear resisters who meet twice a year to celebrate, to address issues of peace and justice, to support one another in nonviolent resistance to militarism, and to plan nonviolent direct action in opposition to nuclear madness.

The DMCW and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom helped host the gathering by providing food, drink and participating in meetings. About 25 of the participants were from the D.M. area.

There was discussion on a variety of topics, including resistance as a way of life, suffering and the role of support in nonviolent direct action. The group acknowledged that the drama of risking arrest often overshadows the importance of the support component to the success of the action.

After a presentation was given about the changes at Offutt AFB and the Strategic Command (Strat-Com) near Omaha, the group decided to hold a follow up meeting in Council Bluffs on Oct. 15-16, 1993 to plan an act of nonviolent civil disobedience at Strat-Com. For more info contact: Frank Cordaro, (712) 325-8830.

Letter from Prison

June 17, 1993

Dear Frank,

... We were in court this morning. Our jury trial date is August 24. We have been assigned Judge West, who has a terrible reputation: "hanging judge" according to our cell block mates. We do have permission to meet to prepare our trial. Greg and Michelle, married only three months, are thrilled.

Today we... we learned the horrible news that a young woman who left jail (our block) yesterday at 5 p.m., after spending 47 days in jail, overdosed and died at 9 p.m. Most all the women are here on drug charges so most are stunned with the possibility that they could meet the same end. I'm hoping that some of them, at least, will agree to attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Please pray for them.

I'm enclosing something I wrote to explain why I joined this plowshares community.

Perhaps you'd be able to share it with others. Thank you for your support.

Love, Kathy Boylan

On April 9, at 3 a.m., two friends and I cut a hole in the fence of the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., crossed the yard, climbed 80 feet of scaffolding to the top of a fast attack submarine, and began to disarm the cruise missile launchers capable of unleashing an arsenal equivalent to one hundred Hiroshimas. After spray painting "Christ lives, disarm" on the launch covers and pouring blood into the missile tubes, we called security and were arrested.

Please consider my motivations for joining this disarmament community, The Good News Plowshares:

I am a mother of five. Many years ago, I saw a poster of a mother pushing a baby carriage through a beautiful park, but just beneath the lush grass, thousands of nuclear missiles pointed skyward. It had a powerful impact on me. All I

was doing for my children would be meaningless if I didn't act to dismantle the weapons threatening all humanity.

We've all watched in horror the tragedy of Waco, Texas, but the world is the Waco compound and preparations are complete for the incineration of the planet. Humanity is held hostage, especially the children. The plowshares act is an attempt to disarm our compound. It is an invitation to everyone to do the same.

I am haunted by the question, "What would I have done to stop the Holocaust?" Would I have refused to pay taxes to Hitler, or blocked the trains, or hidden the victims; and would I have cut the fence at Auschwitz, crossed the yard and tried to disarm the gas chamber? I hope so.

Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement, called nuclear weapons "gas chambers without walls." The Tuscon, fast-attack submarine, will launch the chambers killing millions of people. The weapons must be dismantled.

Newport News Shipyard builds death machines just like the German companies built gas chambers. Private property warnings should not have stopped German citizens from acting to stop the Holocaust. They can't stop us today.

The designer of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., meant his work to be an "indictment of acquiescence echoing across half a century to future generations." I hope I would not have acquiesced to slavery or Hitler and I will not acquiesce to the incineration of the planet.

Peace to all,
Kathy Boylan

(Kathy, Michelle Naar-Obed, and Gregory Boertje-Obed of the "Good News Plowshares" were all given eight-month sentences and a \$2,500 fine. Having already spent over four months in jail prior to sentencing and with one month good time for each month already served, they were released from Newport City Jail immediately after sentencing. None of them intend to pay the fine.)



Bill Farmer

On Monday, October 18, 1993 at 9:00 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse in Omaha Bill Farmer will be sentenced for violating a past ban-bar letter from Offutt AFB on December 28, 1992. Due to health concerns Bill is asking the court to sentence him to community service. He is asking people to send letters of support and recommendation of community service to: U.S. Magistrate Judge Kathleen A. Jaudenis, P.O. Box 336, Omaha, NE 68101. Bill is a 71-year-old artist and peace activist from Omaha.

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Des Moines Catholic Worker Needs List

* Work continues on the replacement of the roof on Lazarus House. Please see the "Urgent Appeal" article in this issue. We continue to need folks with plumbing and carpentry skills for a variety of projects around the CW complex. If you can volunteer work or donate money, please contact us at (515) 243-0765 or write us at the return address on this newsletter. Thanks!

OTHER NEEDS

floor polish - shampoo/conditioner - razors - feminine hygiene products -
bandages - first aid cream - cold medicine (children and adult) - coffee - fruit
juice - board games - garden tools - toothpaste - trash bags - towels - bedding -
light bulbs - food, fresh and canned

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